

It now falls to the Congress to serve the public interest and work to reverse this effort to dumb down the American media. The public interest is not served by a cookie-cutter approach to important policy issues. At stake is a loss of competition, local community perspectives and diversity. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reverse the most troubling aspects of the FCC decision.

HONORING RENEE MULLIKEN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to a young woman from my district who exemplifies the positive attitude it takes to succeed in life. Renee Mulliken of Palisade, Colorado has known for some time that she wanted to be a gymnast. In fact, she began gymnastic classes at the age of three and has been competing in meets since she was 10. Her drive and determination escalated her up the gymnastic ranks, leading her to level nine, one step below the national level.

While warming up on a trampoline for a high school meet, Renee under-rotated on a flip and fractured her neck. The injury led to weeks in traction and several more in a stabilizing brace called a halo. The doctors told Renee that she would recover, but most thought her career as a gymnast was over. Renee set out to prove them wrong, and five days after she got the halo off, Renee was back competing.

It took some time and hard work for Renee to achieve her previous ability, but I am glad to say she has recently competed in the level eight state gymnastics meet. Renee's favorite event is the floor routine, where she can express herself through her movements and choice of music. Renee has made it clear to everyone who doubted her that she will continue her gymnastics career despite the injury she suffered.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this Congress to recognize the accomplishments of Renee Mulliken. The hard work and determination Renee displayed should be an inspiration to us all. I wish Renee good luck in her gymnastics career and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN N. ARGER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM TEACHING

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work and achievements of John Arger, a dear, close friend of mine who has challenged the thinking of literally thousands of students in his Marinette High School government and social studies classes since 1974.

John retired June 2, after 29 years of inspired teaching at Marinette High, which is just

a stone's throw across the Menominee River in Wisconsin from my 1st Congressional District of Michigan. We don't use passports to cross the river, and John has made many important contributions to the two communities of Marinette, WI, and Menominee, MI, over his many years of teaching and involvement in local politics.

I have seen John in action when I visited his classes at Marinette High, and can testify from experience that he made the subjects of government and social studies come alive for his students. A favorite tradition for his students was a surreptitious after-midnight visit to the Arger yard at election time. The Argers would wake up to find one of every single candidate's yard signs displayed on their front lawn—testimony to how well the students learned the value of becoming informed about local, State and national issues.

One of John's special pleasures as a teacher was being able to re-connect with students he taught as freshmen when they came back to him in senior government classes. He loved seeing how they had grown intellectually and become adult in their concepts of community and the world. Returning students who have graduated and left their hometown often seek him out on return visits from the "bigger world" that he has helped them to understand, and he cherishes these one-on-one exchanges.

John grew up in Marquette, MI, where his mother Rose still lives. He attended Marquette High School and graduated from Northern Michigan University, NMU, in Marquette in 1970. He then earned his teaching certificate at NMU. In later years, he went on to earn two master's degrees, one in political science and a second in guidance and counseling.

In 1994, John was honored as an outstanding alumnus when NMU presented him its Alumni Service Award. The award recognized his work in support of higher education, his service on the NMU Alumni Board and his tireless efforts as a regional NMU alumni coordinator.

I have heard rumors that when John was in high school and college, he was a Goldwater Republican. John started to adjust this misguided but most likely well-intentioned position as soon as he began teaching. One morning—I imagine the sun was shining and bluebirds were singing—he woke up to the realization that the Republican party was not the party of the average American. He has been an unabashed liberal ever since.

However, in his early years as a teacher, he also prided himself on the fact that none of his students could tell what his political preferences were, even after a year spent discussing government and how it works.

John has contributed countless hours to the life of his community, through public service and in political campaigns at several levels. He and his wife Janice have lived in Menominee since their marriage in 1984, when he finally coaxed Jan away from her teaching career in West Bend to Menominee after years of dating.

Jan herself is a great asset not just to their happy and long-lived marriage, but to the Menominee community. She has been a special-education teacher with the Menominee Intermediate School System since joining John in Menominee. She received her master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and specializes in speech pathology.

On Saturday, June 7, along with many other friends and colleagues of John's, I will be in Menominee to celebrate John's achievements and wish him well. Although his dad Nick passed away when John was still a young man, I know that Nick will be there in spirit, alongside Rose, Jan and a roomful of friends, to lift a glass of retsina with us as we say "Opa" to John in his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, John Arger is the kind of American who inspires our work here in this House. I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in giving him our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a full and happy retirement.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF GEOFFREY J. WIGHTMAN ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Geoffrey J. Wightman of Amherst, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Geoffrey's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2007. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Geoffrey brings a special mix of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Firelands High School, Oberlin-Henrietta Township, Ohio, Geoffrey has attained a grade point average of 3.6, which places him eighteenth in his class of one hundred fifty-four students. During his time at Firelands High School, Geoffrey has received several commendations for his superior scholastic efforts. Nathan's accomplishments include being on the honor role, being inducted into the National Honor Society, serving as the Historian in the National Honor Society, and First Place in the Science Fair in the field of Engineering.

Outside the classroom, Geoffrey has distinguished himself as an excellent musician, athlete and dedicated citizen of Amherst. On the fields of friendly strife, Geoffrey participated in Football, Wrestling in which he is a three year letter winner, cross country, and Track where he was again a three year letter winner. In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Geoffrey is an active member in his community participating in the Boy Scouts of America where he became an Eagle Scout, he has remained active in his Church, and an active member of North Coast Pipe Band, Buckeye Boys State, and a member of the Firelands High School class council.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Geoffrey J. Wightman. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure